GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4973
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2016
Sale of Medicines through Online Pharmacies
Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Singh Shri Bharatendra;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Committee constituted by the Government to regulate the sale of medicines through online pharmacies has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient recommendations of the said Report;

(c) whether the Committee has taken into consideration the views of all stakeholders before giving its recommendations and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the percentage of share of medicines sold online in the country; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check self medication?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a): Yes. The Sub-Committee constituted by the Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) to examine the issue relating to online sale of drugs has submitted its report.

(b): The Sub-committee has inter-alia recommended:-
â€¢ Creation of a National Portal to act as the nodal platform for transacting and monitoring online sale of drugs.
â€¢ Necessity of evolving a mechanism to register e-pharmacies.
â€¢ Geographical restrictions for operation of e-pharmacies.
â€¢ Mechanism for verification of authenticity through a link to the National Portal.
â€¢ Existing licensees carrying out retail sale of drugs would also be able to register on the National Portal for carrying out online sale of drugs.
â€¢ Requirement of registration with CDSCO under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.
â€¢ certain categories of drugs viz. the Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, tranquilizers, habit forming drugs and Schedule X drugs that are prone to being abused or misused are to be excluded from sale through e-pharmacies.

(c): The Sub-committee had sought suggestions/comments from stakeholders and also heard the representatives of industry, associations, NGOs, etc. before preparing the report.

(d): Data in this regard is not maintained centrally.

(e): Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 thereunder, the drugs included in Schedule H, H1 and X are required to be sold by retail on, and in accordance with, the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) only and it is dangerous to take drugs included in Schedule G except under medical supervision. In case of non-compliance with the provisions, the State Licensing Authorities are empowered to take action under the said Act and Rules.